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Hughes, Lodge in TV Debate On U.S. Moves in Cuba Crisis

The Telegram and Gazette
Boston Bureau

BOSTON — H. Stuart Hughes, independent candidate for the United States Senate, urged last night that the U. S. withdraw from its naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and that the Russians withdraw its military support of the Castro regime.

In a televised debate with Republican Senate candidate George C. Lodge, Hughes urged these steps as a way toward "normalizing" our relations with Cuba.

Lodge responded that the U. S., far from withdrawing pressure against Cuba, should work to increase an economic blockade of the island.

Kennedy in Chicopee

Edward M. Kennedy, Democratic candidate for the Senate, was invited to participate in the debate but did not attend. His headquarters announced he had a speaking engagement in Chicopee.

An empty chair and podium were placed on the stage for Kennedy. The session, before a capacity crowd of 1,200 in John Hancock Hall, was televised by WGBH, Channel 2. Hughes and Lodge, under rules agreed upon in advance, fired away at one another, frequently challenging the other to comment on one or another aspect of the topic, "resolved that the cold war can be won."

Hisses and Laughter

The session was moderated by Rev. W. Seavey Joyce, dean of the Boston College School of Business Administration.

The session was marked by frequent hisses and laughter. Invariably, the audience, Lodge seemed to be for the Administration when it over the butt of most of the hissing threw a neutralist government to at the start of the debate. Later, instead a rightwing prince. on, however, the Lodge supporters in the audience got into the swing of things and at the windup were hissing and laughing at many of Hughes' comments.

Hughes declared that we should restore trade relations with the Castro regime as a first step to

ward solving the Cuban problem. He said that he makes no apologies for Castro, but believes that he is better than the dictator he ousted.

Lodge said that the United States should have compelled Batista 10 years ago to liberalize his regime. If it had done so "we might not now have a Castro," said Lodge, but this is all history now, and the question is what to do next. Lodge said there is no evidence that the Cuban people are happy with the Castro regime.

Economic Pressures

He said he would not favor extreme measures such as invasion of Cuba, but that we should try to rally our allies in South America to increase economic and other pressures against Cuba.

On the question of nuclear weapons, Hughes said the U.S. should pledge never to use atomic weapons first in any showdown with the Communists.

Lodge said such a pledge might open the way to Russia's sweeping over Europe because of its advantage in manpower and conventional weapons.

Hughes said he would favor a buildup of conventional weapons "on a temporary basis," if this would help reduce the possibility of a nuclear war.

Hughes was scathingly critical of this country's Central Intelligence Agency. He said that many newspaper readers are better informed and could make wiser judgments than the directors of the CIA. He said the agency was responsible for a tremendous blunder in Laos during the Eisenhower administration, Lodge had strongly criticized our policy in Laos, saying that in backing a government including Communist elements we were

opening the way for a eventual Communist take-over in that nation.

Hughes said that the cold war cannot be won in the sense that there are many types of com-

munist now, citing China, Poland and other Communist nations as examples. He said their objectives are sometimes far different than Moscow's.

Lodge responded that the cold war "can be and must be won." He said that Hughes "makes a common mistake" by thinking the cold war is just a competition between different economic systems.

Lodge said the eventual Communist goal is world domination. Lodge said he favors a different emphasis in our foreign aid program, including a greater effort to organize peasant and workers' leagues in other countries.

Hughes responded that he was glad to see my Republican opponent agrees with me on the need for a revolutionary foreign policy."

'Not Concerned'

Hughes said he couldn't agree with Lodge's recommendation that we call together Latin American nations to "alert them" to the dangers of Communist subversion from Cuba. He said Latin American leaders are not nearly as concerned about Cuba as we are.

He said any such meeting would result in another humiliation for the United States. He said South American leaders can't understand why "elephants should be afraid of a mouse."

Lodge said that as the leaders of the free world it is our responsibility to be more worried than the Latin American leaders are and to bring the problem of Cuba forcefully to their attention.

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